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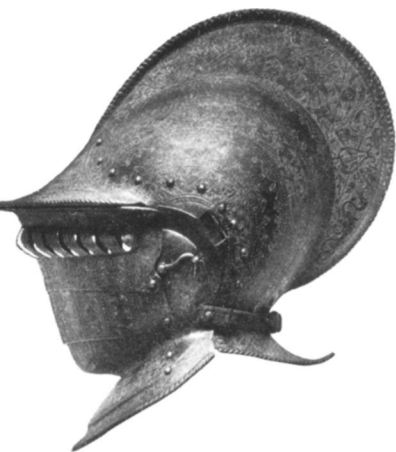
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## THE WILLIAM H. RIGGS COLLECTION OF ARMS AND ARMOR

## MR. RIGGS AS A COLLECTOR OF ARMOR



WILLIAM HENRY RIGGS of Paris, son of Elisha Riggs, the well-known banker of New York, Baltimore, and Washington, influenced by his high regard for his life-long friend, the late J. Pierpont Morgan, and his belief in the important place The Metropolitan Museum is

destined to play in the future of the art of this country, presented to the Museum in May of last year his collection of arms and armor, which has long been known to be unrivalled among those of private collectors. The gift was accepted by the Trustees on May 19, 1913, in a resolution which expressed their estimation of the collection as of the greatest value in its relation to the study of mediaeval and renaissance art, and of their lively appreciation of the spirit of patriotism which led Mr. Riggs to render so notable a service to the people of this country through the Museum of his native city. The Trustees requested Mr. Riggs to act as a Trustee of the Collection during his lifetime, and to supervise its proper installation in the addition to the building, then under construction, and now known as Wing H.

The collection has been shipped from Mr. Riggs' house in Paris, and is now being prepared for exhibition. The date of its installation will be announced in a later Bulletin.

HE needs much who would become a successful collector: he should begin early; he should be devoted and persistent; he must have at hand the necessary time and means; he must feel that he has a mission to accomplish; he should have what people call "good luck;" and, most of all, perhaps, he must be born with a "seeing eye" to fit him to pick and choose.

Judged by these tests, William Henry Riggs has had every qualification for a successful career. Even as a child, he spent his time arranging and labeling "specimens" on the shelves of his museum in the top story of the family house facing Bowling Green. When about fifteen he began gathering Indian arms and costumes, and in 1853 he sent to New York one of the earliest ethnological collections from the east slopes of the Rockies, which, unfortunately, was lost soon afterward in a warehouse fire. This collection he brought together on a trip to the west, made in company with his brother Elisha, on the Benton-Beal expedition. Thus the young collector gained his first-hand knowledge of Indian objects. At one time he had the choice of the arms of 800 war-painted Pawnees. His collecting instincts in those days sometimes led him into perilous paths. On one occasion he became all but entangled in a herd of bison; and on another, after having been detained on account of a "trade," he was the last to cross a ford, was swept with his horse into the Arkansas River, and was saved only by a long cast of the lasso of one of the guides, the half-breed Antonio de la Rue. After this incident the expedition's leader, Colonel Beal, told off his best guide, Kit Carson, "to keep a sharp eye on that boy."